

TWO

ALTERNATIVE INFORMATION RECORD

JULY 1990

AIRMAIL

Since Issue 1 we have received a number of letters from people. Some are interested in subscriptions, or possible subscriptions, to AIR. Letters have come from Britain and abroad - we are encouraged by this response. If you would like a year's subscription please send us £5. We operate on a shoe-string because we want to share information, not make money, but even shoe-strings need a little maintenance!

Holger Terp in Copenhagen has sent us a number of documents - more information on these in the next issue. We are also pleased to have received information from the museum of Peace and Solidarity in Samarkand in the USSR. The text of a piece specially written for AIR appears in this issue. A.Vernon White has written offering to do some Librarians Within the Peace Movement badges on his badge-making machine if we can come up with the design. Colin Archer, new General Secretary of the International Peace Bureau (IPB), has supplied us with the details of his free archive give-away offer. Anne Brewer of the Surrey Library of Teaching Resources for Education in International Understanding, Justice and Peace has written and kindly donated a copy of her excellent 'Teaching Resources (a review of this resource plus information about the library appear in the next issue).

Please keep writing to us - we want the newsletter to reflect two-way communication. Articles, letters of support, criticisms and suggestions are all welcome, so we can create a truly interactive network.

Declan McLugh

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Below is the text, slightly abbreviated, we were sent by the Museum of Peace and Solidarity about their work.

" The Museum of Peace and Solidarity was established in 1986 in Samarkand on the initiative of members of the International Friendship Club "Esperanto" in honour of the International Year of Peace. The museum's sphere embraces the real and actual global problems man faces here and now : peace, disarmament, development, protection of the environment, human rights, the urgent need for a nuclear-free and non-violent world that can ensure the survival of the human race. The museum currently houses some 10,000 exhibits received from about 100 countries in all continents. These include posters, paintings, childrens' drawings, photographs, documents, books, periodicals, badges, T-shirts, films, slides etc. Our efforts are entirely dependent on offers of help from individuals and groups who share our concerns. Your contributions of any kind would be greatly appreciated."

-Anatoly Ionesov, Director, Museum of Peace and Solidarity.

МУЗЕЙ МИРА И  
СОЛИДАРНОСТИ

СССР, Узбекская ССР,  
703000, г. Самарканд,  
Главпротамт, абон. ящ. 76.

MUSEUM OF PEACE AND SOLIDARITY  
P.O. Box 76, 703000 Samarkand  
Uzbekistan USSR.  
Tel: 3-17-53, 5-03-82

An article in the "Pacifist", Sept 1988 reveals that there are sister peace museums in Chicago, the Netherlands and Japan. The Chicago Peace Museum has photographs, posters, paintings, cartoons, books, journals and thousands of badges which illustrate the history of the US anti-war movement this century. There are also musical scores and tapes of peace songs by the likes of Baez, Lennon and Wonder, a room for children which shows wartyos, profiles of Nobel Peace Prize winners, etc. There have been many exhibitions including ones on alternatives to wartyos, drawings made by survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Hibakushi), memorabilia connected with Greenham Common etc.

We should have such a peace museum in Britain. There are so many of us in the peace movement who have, or have had, memorabilia illustrating the development of the movement in this region of the world, but all too often items are packed away in boxes and even get thrown away. This is a great shame. There are a number of places which might take certain items eg. The Commonweal Collection in Bradford, the Imperial War Museum, London School of Economics Library, but there is no place where leaflets, badges, posters, drawings, poems, photographs etc can be centrally located and displayed. In this way, we dissipate and lose track of our history and the wealth of activities geared towards achieving a peaceful world. Any suggestions out there?

Declan McHugh

## AMAZING FREE ARCHIVE OFFER

Way back in the heady days of the 1970s I unwisely started collecting radical pamphlets and periodicals for a library attached to a Manchester alternative/Third World Centre of which I was the co-ordinator. Somehow, it got out of hand and I now have some 70 boxes of archive material to dispose of. Two years ago, I finally managed to get the collection listed and I solicited requests from 30 libraries and campaign centres. However, although I got a number of replies, several libraries were either collapsing or lacking staff to deal with the offer. So in the end, I had to put the distribution problem on ice.

Now I'm moving to Geneva to work for the International Peace Bureau and I have to shift the material. It's on offer again and it's still free (NB. Previous bids will still stand, unless I'm otherwise informed)

Topics range from Alternative lifestyles, Anarchism and the Arts to Unemployment, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Most of the material belongs to the 70s/early 80s and encompasses leaflets, pamphlets, magazines and some books. There are many rare, fascinating and/or ephemeral items.

I need to shift these items in one van trip (ideally) at the end of July or early August, so time is short. PLEASE contact me if you are interested in seeing the listings or even just talking it over on the phone.

Colin Archer, 1 Russell Rd, Manchester M16 8DJ 061 226 3683

## BRITISH LIBRARIES & PEACE COLLECTIONS

### TOY LIBRARIES

I didn't even know they existed until I looked through the 1990 Concorde Video & Film Council Catalogue (Contact Concorde Video & Film Council Ltd, at 201 Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 9BJ Tel: Ipswich (0473) 726012 and 715754. There will be a piece on Concorde in the next issue).

What a great and simple idea. Of course we should have places where toys are held in common and can be borrowed, particularly for and by children with special needs. This is truly peace work in libraries in my opinion. But how many of us know about their existence? And if we don't know then we can't network the information.

The catalogue has 3 videos on Toy Libraries. "Toys for the Talking" which gives general information on what and where they are, "More than just Toys" which shows different toy libraries at work in Leicester & London, and "A lending hand" which shows a day in the life of a toy library organiser in Lewisham. Contact the National Toy Libraries Association at 68 Church Way, London NW1 1LT if you want to find out more about the valuable work of these libraries.

Declan McLugh

## MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL TRUST RESOURCE CENTRE

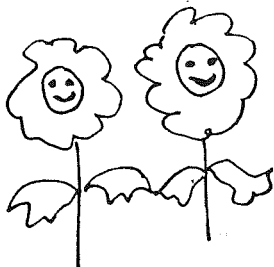
Ian Lee is in the process of establishing a centre at 601 Malloway Rd, N19 4DJ Tel. 071-272-2020 Fax. 071-281-5717

This centre contains information primarily to help satisfy the information needs of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (MCANW) and the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW), both of which are at the same address.

Apart from specifically medical information, the collection will also extend to the wider disarmament./development/security/health care matters. Ian intends to network with other information workers and centres to avoid duplication of work.

Information includes reference works, periodicals, books, pamphlets, MAPW & MCANW produced materials, and files etc.

Declan Mc Hugh



## LESBIAN AND GAY LENDING LIBRARY

There is a lesbian and gay lending library at

London Friend  
86 Caledonian Rd  
London N1  
Tel. 071-837-2732  
Kings Cross Tube 2-4 pm

It is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month.

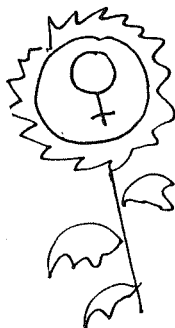
Declan McLugh

## GREENHAM ARCHIVE

An archive of News cuttings, pictures, posters etc. has been established to trace the history of the Wimmin peace camp at Greenham Common.

Donations to the collection are being sought from Wimmin who have been connected with the camp. For more details contact:

Lynette Edwell  
24 Priory Lane  
Newbury, Berks.  
Tel: 0635 33094



Martyn Lowe

Milebuen 35, DK 2620 Albertslund.

Their platform is UNESCO's 1972 manifesto which sets out " UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and an essential agent for the fostering of peace and understanding between people and between nations" . ( UNESCO Bull. Libr XXVI, No 3, May-June, 1972 )

They operate under the auspices of the Association of Danish Librarians and cooperate with other Danish groups such as Teachers for Peace, Journalists for Peace, etc, and try to coordinate librarians' professional work on peace and disarmament issues by communicating ideas on arranging exhibitions, organising public discussions, workshops, etc. " It is our aim that, through libraries, the public will have access to multi-faceted information on peace and disarmament, as well as the opportunity for independent, democratic opinion formation on these issues. "

" Any effort - major or minor contributes to peace ",



## SRI LANKA

The Non-Violent Direct Action Group (NVDAG) in Sri Lanka - motto - "Little by little we keep building a new society" (PO Box 2, Chavakacheri, Sri Lanka) has planned to establish at least 5, maybe 10, model childrens' libraries, helped by the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute in the USA. The first was opened in October 1989 and NVDAG donated children's books and furniture. The library will be administered jointly by children and management of the local public library. Twenty-five children enrolled on the first day. The NVDAG's own library has more than 150 members and is the only place in the region where readers can have books and journals on non-violence, peace, human rights, disarmament etc.

(info from 'NVDAG report', Nov 89 issue)

## MALI

A scheme here is trying to use technology to sustain culture (rather than destroy it) by using tape recorders in local villages to collect traditional culture in local languages - today, 95 villages have their own sound libraries. Themes range from myths and legends to questions about society. The format is particularly suited to Mali where 80% of the population is illiterate. People have a chance to express their feelings about the society they live in and children have an incentive to learn to read the transcripts because it is their fathers or grandfathers who are responsible for the ideas. Rural sound libraries have become a powerful means for the transmission and acquisition of knowledge.

As an African proverb says "The future is born in the past."

Taken from 'UNESCO sources' May 90

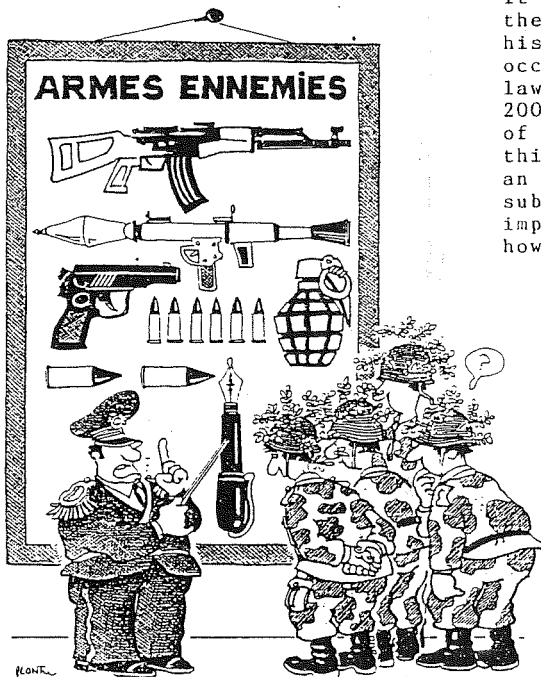
Declan McIlugh

Walter, Nicholas; "Blasphemy Ancient and Modern";  
Rationalist Press Association, London 1990.  
ISBN 0 301 90001 9  
96 pages, £3.95.

This pamphlet is important reading for librarians who are concerned by suppression of freedom of speech and expression.

It outlines the concepts underlying the blasphemy laws and gives the history of the court cases that have occurred due to the various blasphemy laws that have existed during the last 2000 years. Written by the Secretary of the Committee against Blasphemy, this is not a campaigning piece, but an excellent academic work on the subject. It also gives some very important historical background about how the Rushdie case came into being.

Martyn Lowe



## RESOURCES

### GreenBook Fortnight 1990 Catalogue

(copies were available free in various bookshops during the Fortnight in the Spring. For copies try 'Books for a Change' (Tel: 071-8362315) or the Observer who sponsor the Fortnight.)

This catalogue is a valuable pointer to good books on a wide variety of green issues (what isn't a Green Issue now!?). Books are listed in alphabetical author order. Some 200 novels guides, directories, children's books, etc are included. It would have been better if books had been categorised as well as listed in alphabetical order, so that you could have picked out all the children's books easily, for example. There is a useful list of the details of the book publishers at the back of the catalogue.

Declan McHugh

## Anarchist Booklist

(Anarchism is not necessarily all about Class War. The pacifist Bart De Ligte who wrote 'The Conquest of Violence', and Tolstoy, were both anarchists.)

Anarchist bibliographies tend to be both dated and hard to get hold of. However, Freedom Bookshop (whose anarchist paper 'Freedom' is now over 100 years old) have a good 4 page booklist, regularly updated, of anarchist materials in stock.

Several hundred books are listed in author alphabetical order under three headings, 'Freedom Press Distribution Titles', 'Other Titles', and 'Periodicals'. Examples are Murray Bookchin's "Towards an Ecological Society", Thoreau's "Walden", and Kropotkin's "Mutual Aid". The booklist is available free (but please send a large SAE) from:

Freedom Bookshop  
84B Whitechapel High Street  
LONDON EC1 7QX  
Tel: 071-247 9249.

Martyn Lowe



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## The Good, The Bad, & The Idiot

1)

"March's leather swimsuit was as sturdy and decorous as a Victorian vicarage but... unless the Reverend Philodore Lemay was much mistaken - and with him a large number of shocked mothers, librarians, school teachers.. - this was unabashed sex". (One of London's freebie magazines, May 1990).

2)

"Awkward, bespectacled singer Patrick still looks more like a librarian than a popstar..." (Melody Maker, June 1990)

3)

"The hero, though, is one of a long line of Amis protagonists. Harry Caldecote is a retired librarian, a decent chap with a no-nonsense view of the world who likes to enjoy his pleasures, such as drinking in his local or drinking in the club, without too much interference" (Review of 'The folks on the Hill', by Kingsley Amis, in Time Out, March 28-April 4 1990)

Declan McHugh

A I R    A L T E R N A T I V E    I N F O R M A T I O N    R E C O R D

AIR is the journal of Librarians Within the Peace Movement (LWPM).

AIR contains Information for and by those concerned with information about peace and radical social justice issues.

AIR is concerned with communicating data about peace and related issues to all who work with information, in libraries, in archives, and activists, wherever they are.

AIR contains news about peace movement libraries and archives, articles about how practical problems have been solved, reviews, short snippets of lively humorous information, letters, debate, and much, much more.

AIR is a newsletter to help peace movement information workers, librarians, archivists, and activists share knowledge and experience.

AIR contains details about new data-bases, specialist bibliographical news coming from the library & information worlds, and from within the peace movement too.

Most of all AIR is a networking tool to be used!

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